



Volume 24

An ARCEC Monthly Publication

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Counterpoise Editor - Sue Robins AF6LJ

Boy Scout Radio Merit Badge Day – September 26, 2015

By Paul Thompson KJ6BYF

Club members Chuck Dullum, KJ6ECY, Assistant Scout Master for Troop 959, and Paul Thompson, KJ6BYF, a certified merit badge counselor, helped 11 Boy Scouts, from various troops, obtain the Radio Merit Badge.

The scouts worked hard to earn the Radio Merit Badge. The first three hours included a power point presentation, and exercises from the Radio Merit Badge



After all the written exercises were completed, everyone adjourned outside where it was time for “third party” communications. Each scout had a list of questions to ask any ham who responded to them on the radio. We tuned the radio to 2 Meters and called out on the ARCEC repeater.



Here is the group watching (yawning, snoozing) the presentation.

Next Month's Meeting

Officers Nominations, Ham of the Year Nomination, Homebrew Contest and much more. Hope to see you there.





We had a great response! Then “murphy” showed up. The ARCEC repeater stopped working! We transferred to the Lyons Peak repeater and tried again. Another great response from the ham community. All the scouts fulfilled their “on air” requirements.

Chuck and Paul want to thank all the hams who patiently answered all the same questions from each scout.

JOTA in San Diego

By Pat Bunsold WA6MHZ

Edited by Sue Robins AF6LJ

Saturday was a very busy day in San Diego's Balboa Park. Many, many boy scouts from all over the area converged on Camp Balboa for the annual Jamboree On The Air event, which I also attended.

The Camp has very well equipped with a radio room, and antenna system. I saw a card listing the callsign of the room as WB6BSA. I failed to get a picture of it, as I was way busy.

Things started out early with an Orientation meeting. There were many Ham stations set up primarily by the PALOMAR ARC. 40M, 20M and VHF along with DSTAR, and C4FM demos were amongst the many setups, or booths for the scouts to explore. Here is a group of scouts ready for a day of excitement



Note the famous Town Car in the background. That was set up as Static Display as an example of the Ultimate Mobile cross country Vehicle (a veteran of 5 Dayton Trips). There were lots of "OH WOW"s as the scouts perused the vehicle. Most of my day, however would not be on the air, but in the soldering booth teaching the scouts to solder and helping them build a cute little kit. *Continued on Page 3*

Fry's Operating Day

Fry's Operating Day will take place Saturday November 7th at the San Diego Fry's Electronics parking lot. See the San Diego Six Shooters website for more details.

<http://sdsixshooters.org/>

ARCEC Repeater Frequencies

2 Meter Repeater	220 MHZ Repeater	440 MHZ Repeater
TX 146.475	TX 222.480	TX 440.900
RX 147.420	RX 224.080	RX 445.900
Offset .945	Offset 1.6	Offset 5.00
PL 107.2	PL 107.2	PL 107.2



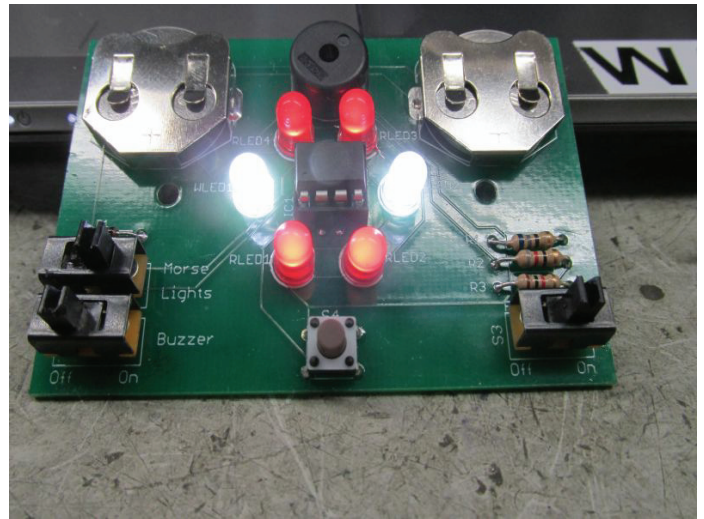
This boy is making his first solder joint of his life. Notice the neat Hakko station I brought along. Fortunately, I had most of the tools needed in my Patman belt toolkit, which got considerable use. There were many helpers there along with myself teaching the Scouts to solder.



Work continued on the kits with so many Boy Scouts that we had to share the soldering irons.

After lunch they had an awards Ceremony for 3 Scouts that had passed their license test that morning. They were presented with brand new Baofeng dual band HTs for their accomplishment.

After the Ceremony, we had an Afternoon Session of more scouts to do more soldering. The kits were fairly easy, and it didn't take too long for the Scouts to finish them. We made sure All units worked. I was the primary rework person to repair botched jobs. In the end, the Scouts were most pleased to have a really Whiz Bang kerchief flashing light and beeping thingy.



We have a perfect working board the button in the center selects 1 of 6 morse code messages to send. It also sends the signal to a beeper if desired. So I am most anxious to help out again Next year. I didn't get on the radio, but I was mighty busy as it was.



Here is the JOTA patch I received for my help

VHF Repeater Failure

By Sue Robins AF6LJ

After several weeks of unseasonably hot weather our VHF repeater gave up the ghost. During the last two weeks of its operation the repeater was intermittent, and finally in early October quit altogether. At the last board meeting it was decided to put together a work detail to make arrangements with the Padre Dam Water District who hosts our repeater and see if the aging VHF repeater could be repaired in the field.

October 15th was the chosen day to investigate what had failed. Dave, Chuck, Pat, Peter, myself and Terry met at the repeater site and we began to diagnose what had failed. Anyone who lived in the area and parts of the El Cajon valley could hear the repeater although it was in the noise. This would indicate the Exciter was functioning and the power amplifier was not. When the cabinet was opened and power removed from the repeaters, the VHF repeater was opened and it became evident there was considerable heat damage. No fried parts but the classic signs of high heat exposure.

The repeater was inspected and nothing mechanical was wrong, electrical tests indicated the fault to be either with the PA itself or the power control since they work together, the power control provides protection for the PA by monitoring current consumption of the PA. We could get intermittent power out however it was about half what would be expected, and after a short time that was no longer available. Work is continuing on the new repeaters, more info. Next month.



Club Shirts & Jackets

We have 2013 club shirts and jackets available at meetings. Shirts are available sizes from small to XX large, this year's shirt has a pocket and as usual is green in color with the club logo in white. The cost is \$12.00 each. You can get a 2013 Field Day shirt or the standard club shirt, both styles of shirts have the club logo on the back and the left side.

Jackets are also available in sizes ranging from Medium to XX large. These are of the lined windbreaker style, with side pockets and they snap down the front. The cost is \$24.00 each.

We also have a number of shirts from 2012, these shirts are identical to the 2013 shirts without the pocket, and they are available in both the standard club shirt and the 2012 Field Day shirt. Sizes are limited to stock on hand.

The San Diego Morse Code Practice Group

Mark Wardwell KB6PJU has been running a code practice group on the WA6BGS VHF and UHF repeaters. The repeaters are linked to accommodate the needs and accessibility of all who wish to participate. The code practice Group meets at 7:00 PM Pacific time on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.

You can discuss the San Diego Morse Code Practice Group here;

<http://www.arrl.org/forum/topics/view/1536>

And here;

<https://forums.qrz.com/index.php?threads/new-2-meter-repeater-cw-teaching-method-developed.492738/>



Latest Swap Meet Listings

See [URL: http://wa6bgs.us/swapmeetlegal.html](http://wa6bgs.us/swapmeetlegal.html) for more listings and posting guidelines..

For Sale

I am asking \$25 or best offer for the whole package. I will also consider a trade - I don't have anything in mind but please offer. While the manual says Parallel or SCSI, I don't know if or how SCSI would work. However, the parallel port works just fine. I last used it on an XP machine and all I did was plug in the drive, turn it on and it showed up as a drive. I did this recently to move off any data I wanted to keep and to format the disk and everything worked perfectly. I previously used the drive on an NT machine which did require that software be installed. Newer versions of windows I don't know about. It is supposed to work on a Mac but I have never tried it so... I hate to see working hardware go to recycling, especially if it may of use to someone.

What is included:

100 Megabyte Zip drive with power and data cables

Twenty one 100 Megabyte disks

Manuals and software

Contact info: Jerry Vaughn at kk6qhz@arrl.net



Rigblaster Pro model #58002-953. Bought but never used, like new condition. Includes all cables and DVD of software (see photos). Original retail price was \$299.95, current retail price is \$269.95, and my asking price is \$150.00 . For more details or to arrange for purchase, please contact Joe Bennett at w6vmx@rocketmail.com .

Wanted

Russ-KK6QWO - I'm a new ham and don't have anything except a HT. I'm looking for a power supply for my Kenwood base, a power cord and a 4 pin mic, not to mention a 2M mobile and antenna. Contact me at russell.wise@navy.mil.



Joe - W6VMX - I am looking for a Kenwood TM-621A (or a TM-721A too) dual band VHF/UHF mobile transceiver for parts only. Does not need to be working, just looking to use it to replace parts on another unit. If you have one you want to sell or donate, please contact me via my email at w6vmx@rocketmail.com to make arrangements with me. Thanks.





The **AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OF EL CAJON**^{Inc.}
WA6BGS

Post Office Box Fifty, El Cajon California 92022

Founded 1960 ~ Incorporated 1976

Please fill out this form and then see options at bottom for submitting to the club

Date of application: ___ / ___ / ___

Amount Paid: \$ _____ Cash Check Check # _____

Membership Type: Individual (\$20/year) Family* (\$35/year)

Membership Status: New Renewal Returning Member

Call Sign First Name _____ Last Name _____

If a previous member, what was your WAMO number?

ARRL Member: Yes No

License Class: Technician General Extra Other

Email Address (required) _____

Phone Number (optional) _____

**Use another sheet of paper to add Family members and please include the following information:*

First Name, Last Name, Call Sign (if any), License Class, Wamo Number (if any), & Email Address.

Submitting this form:

To submit this form, you can mail it to:

**Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon
P.O. Box 50
El Cajon, CA 92022**

-OR-

Bring it to the next club meeting on the second Thursday of each month. You can find the date and location by getting online at www.wa6bgs.us which is the club website. Check it out for the most current information regarding the club.

Cash Payments - Get a receipt from the Club Treasurer. Please make all checks payable to AMATEUR RADIO CLUB of EL CAJON, Incorporated. Receipts for payments by check will be sent by email or regular mail by the Club Treasurer.

Members with an FCC Call Sign are full members with voting privileges. Members without an FCC Call Sign are Associate members without voting privileges.

YOUR DUES ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE: Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon, Inc. Is a 501 C 7 Corporation. Donations are NOT tax deductible.

Email address and phone number are to allow club officers to contact members regarding club business and information of interest.

JEB